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# How a bill becomes a law



*Compliments of*  
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State Representative

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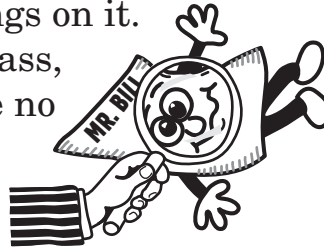
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**1** A bill may be introduced in either the Senate or House of Representatives by a member.

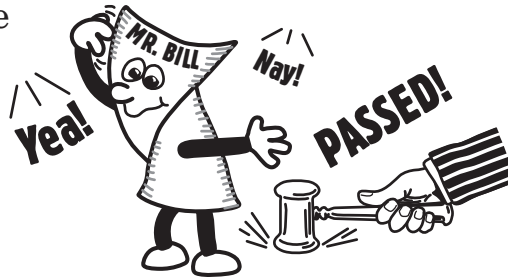
**2** It is referred to a committee for a hearing. The committee studies the bill and may hold public hearings on it. It can then pass, reject or take no action on the bill.



**3** The committee report on the passed bill is read in open session of the House or Senate, and the bill is then referred to the Rules Committee.

**4** The Rules Committee can either place the bill on the second reading of the calendar for debate before the entire body, or take no action.

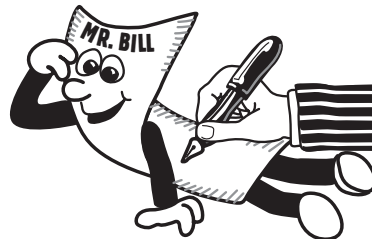
**5** At the second reading, a bill is subject to debate and amendment before being placed on the third reading calendar for final passage.



**6** After passing one house, the bill goes through the same procedure in the other house.

**7** If amendments are made, the other house must approve the changes.

**8** When the bill is accepted in both houses, it is signed by the respective leaders and sent to the governor.



**9** The governor signs the bill into law or may veto all or part of it. If the governor fails to act on the bill, it may become law without a signature.

